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The Fierce Green Fire

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4-3-2014

# The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 4 Issue 19

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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### Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 4 Issue 19" (2014). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 123.  
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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

**Coming Soon!**

*New Thinking Like A River website*



Volume 4, Issue 19

## *Wes Jackson - Field Trip to UGA by John Lane*

On Friday, March 28th a contingent of ENVS 450 (senior seminar) headed for Athens, GA-- myself, Ron Robinson, Jan Patton, Michael Harpe, Jessica Jones, and Farrah Garner--not to hear an REM reunion concert but instead to hear The Land Institute's Wes Jackson speak. It was good in a number of unexpected ways. We got to spend 2 hours with Wes Jackson and eat lunch with him in a very informal setting with a small group at the Environmental Design building before his lecture to the packed chapel at UGA.

I'd never seen Wes give a talk though I've admired his writing and his work with the Land Institute and his friendship with Wendell Berry. He talked to us and was very friendly right away and we also had a deep Wofford connection--Wofford librarian, the late Frank Anderson, had been Wes's librarian at Kansas Wesleyan College before he came to Wofford. That must have been in the 1950s. Frank was 94 when he died a few months ago. Wes said that Anderson said something to him he'd never forget. He said that once walking across campus he stopped him (maybe Wes was just a freshman at the time) and said, "Mr. Jackson, the purpose of education is to live more wisely." As Wes was leaving lunch to go lecture he held his wrist out and said, "If I had a pocket knife we'd become blood brothers."

Wes's lecture was quite interesting. He's like Janisse Ray with graphs and charts and a PHD. "He's like a Baptist preacher," Jan Patton said as Wes started up. His "sermon"

(and he even called it that) was about how we should mimic natural systems with our agriculture, that we should abandon annual grains and plant and harvest nothing but perennial grains. He said "the Fall" (and he called it that) was when humans began with the development of annual grains-- wheat in Middle East, rice in Asia, and corn in Meso-America. His Land Institute is experimenting on kernza, an annual grain with a huge deep root system compared to wheat. ("There are prairie perennial grasses with roots older than the redwoods.") He also ranted against what (and I like this and plan to use it) he calls "The Industrial Mind" which has been in control since early 19th century.

Wes talks about the "five pools of carbon" we have gobbled up-- "first the pulverized soil, then trees, then coal, and then oil, and now gas." He said the salvation to this industrialization is "The Ecological Mind" and the importance of the imagination. He ended his speech by saying, "This change is going to take 50 to 100 years and I'd say we're right on schedule, but if we're going to succeed we've got to stop giving elevator speeches and we've got to stop meeting the people where they are; we've got to make them come with us." He has a great prop he carries with him and unrolls at the end (he calls it a "scroll"). The long root system is the kernza and the one on the left is wheat. So Wes really fired us up to change agriculture!



*Wes Jackson unrolls his impressive scroll.*

**Please feel free to use the Student Lounge in BSA for studying or small group meetings!**

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- April 6<sup>th</sup>** ***Locavore Workshop:*** Goodall Outreach Coordinator and locavore, Haley Briel will give an interactive lecture about eating locally, complete with some fresh food! Join us at 2:00pm in Glendale!
- April 14<sup>th</sup>** ***Fierce Green Fire Meeting:*** Next meeting in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>** ***Deadline to apply for 2014 Paddle Nation Project Grants:*** Outdoor Nation is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications from non-profit organizations who are interested in connecting young Americans with their waterways through recreational paddling. This funding opportunity (\$2500) supports pioneering projects and initiatives that are youth-developed and that result in increased paddling participation. Go to <http://outdoornation.org/> for more information.
- April 21<sup>st</sup>** ***Earth Day Celebration:*** “Religion, Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future” by Bron Taylor, Professor of Religion and Nature at the University of Florida. 6:30pm in CBC Ballroom on USC-Upstate campus.
- April 24<sup>th</sup>** ***ENVS Capstone Presentations:*** 2:30pm-4:30pm, Gray-Jones room, Burwell. Join us as ENVS seniors present their capstone projects. Light refreshments served during the poster session.
- April 25<sup>th</sup>** ***Deadline to apply for undergraduate research position:*** Early June-Mid August-\$4300 stipend with food & lodging. Apply to [Chris.Ray@colorado.edu](mailto:Chris.Ray@colorado.edu) (electronic submissions only) with Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research Site and University of Colorado Mountain Research Station. *Application materials:* Resume/CV, detailed cover letter and two letters of recommendation.
- April & May** ***Summer Research Assistant Opportunity for Juniors & Seniors:*** 10-week program (June 2-Aug 8) in the study of coastal dune dynamics at Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center at Virginia Coast Reserve. \$4500 stipend + housing (responsible for food & travel to/from field station). Applications accepted on rolling basis. Send cover letter, resume/CV, transcript, and statement of research & career interest to [theo.jass@live.unc.edu](mailto:theo.jass@live.unc.edu).
- May 9<sup>th</sup>** ***Deadline to apply to be a Bartram Fellow with Fall Line South Field Institute:*** Visit <http://www.falllinesouth.org/> to learn more about this summer opportunity. Camp dates are June 6-15. College-aged leaders need to interact with high school-aged students and assist camp instructors in an outdoor environment.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *Columbia University – Master of Arts in Climate and Society*

An intensive twelve-month MA program in Climate and Society is offered through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Columbia University and integrates programs in earth sciences, earth engineering, international relations, political science, sociology, and economics.

The MA program is a focused set of courses designed to train students on the impact of climate variability and how it affects society and the environment.

Admission to this highly specialized program is

extremely competitive accepting only 35 to 40 applicants each year.

Their website boasts, “Our graduates are prepared to address environmental issues from positions in government, business, and nongovernmental organizations and some continue their academic careers in the social or natural sciences.”

Please visit their website for more information, <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/climatesociety/program>